

Applicant : Masatake Kudoh et al.
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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, lines 4-7, as amended in the Preliminary Amendment mailed on January 27, 2004, with the following amended paragraph:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional (and claims the benefit of priority under 35 USC 120) of U.S. application serial no. 09/978,758, filed October 16, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,706,507, which claims priority to and is a continuation-in-part of PCT/JP01/01082, filed February 15, 2001, which claims priority from Japanese Application 2000-43506, filed February 16, 2000, and Japanese application No. 2000-374593, filed December 8, 2000. The disclosures of the prior applications are considered part of (and are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety) the disclosure of this application. --